

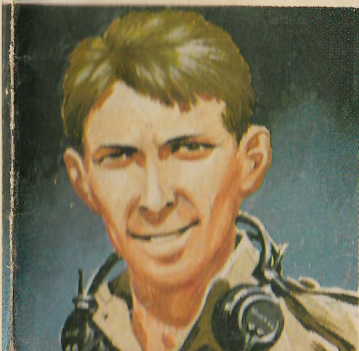
No. 1442

12p

Commando

WAR STORIES IN PICTURES

23c
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INTO THE JUNGLE!



THE SUPERBIKES!

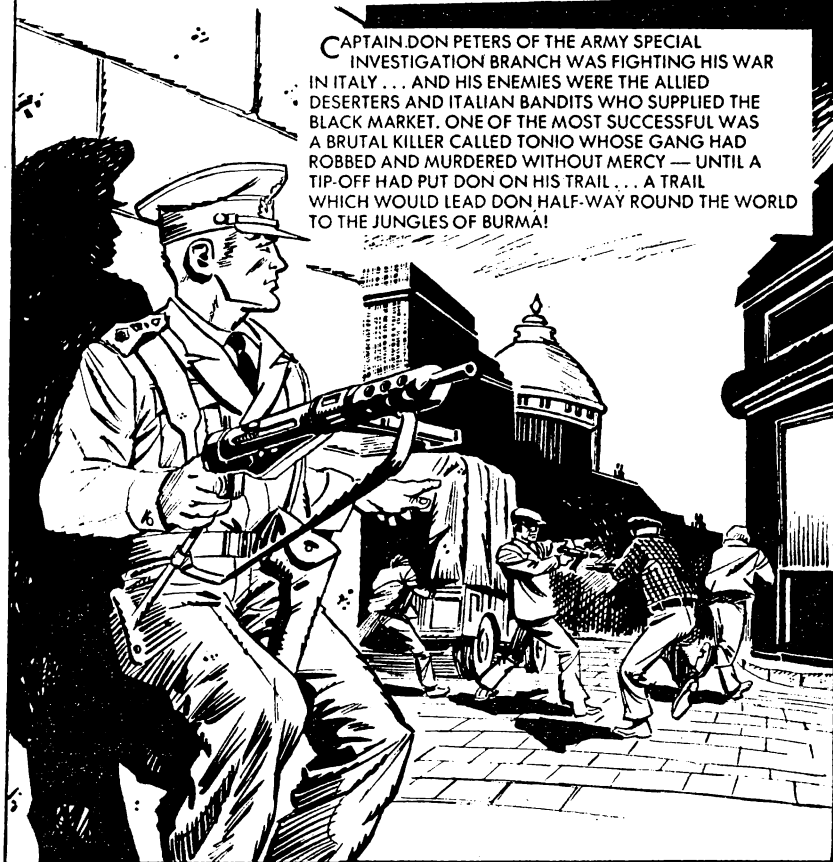
No. 4: HONDA CBX

This big sports tourer from the Honda stable boasts six of the hottest-tuned cylinders and a huge capacity of 1047cc, producing 105 brake horsepower—which means a top speed of almost 140mph and breathtaking acceleration. You could even break the speed limit in second gear on the CBX!

With those performance figures and super-stylish appearance, this is the bike for the connoisseur—the man who is not so much concerned with motorcycling costs as with getting there fast and in style. It gives just over 30 miles to the gallon of petrol and is priced at £2879.

INTO THE JUNGLE!

CAPTAIN DON PETERS OF THE ARMY SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH WAS FIGHTING HIS WAR IN ITALY . . . AND HIS ENEMIES WERE THE ALLIED DESERTERS AND ITALIAN BANDITS WHO SUPPLIED THE BLACK MARKET. ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WAS A BRUTAL KILLER CALLED TONIO WHOSE GANG HAD ROBBED AND MURDERED WITHOUT MERCY — UNTIL A TIP-OFF HAD PUT DON ON HIS TRAIL . . . A TRAIL WHICH WOULD LEAD DON HALF-WAY ROUND THE WORLD TO THE JUNGLES OF BURMA!





THE BANDITS RACED FOR THEIR VEHICLE WHICH WAS PARKED NEARBY, BUT MANY WERE CUT DOWN BY ONE OF DON'S MEN MANNING A WELL-POSITIONED BREN GUN.



IN THE SHORT, SAVAGE FIGHT ONE OF DON'S MEN, SERGEANT SMITH, WAS HIT.

AS A FINAL HOPELESS GESTURE TONIO, THE BANDIT LEADER, CHARGED AT HIS AMBUSHERS, FIRING FROM THE HIP AS HE RAN. INEVITABLY HE WAS HIT, FALLING TO A BURST FROM DON'S STEN.



WITH TONIO DEAD THE FIGHT WAS OVER, NOT ONE OF THE GANG SURVIVING.

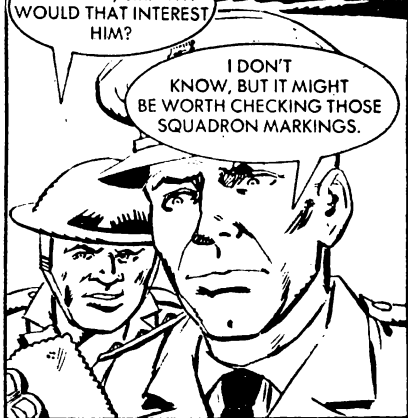
FORTUNATELY SERGEANT SMITH WAS NOT BADLY HURT, SO THE AMBUSH WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS. AND NOW DON COULD PERHAPS IDENTIFY THE DEAD BANDIT LEADER, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN AMERICAN ARMY DESERTER.



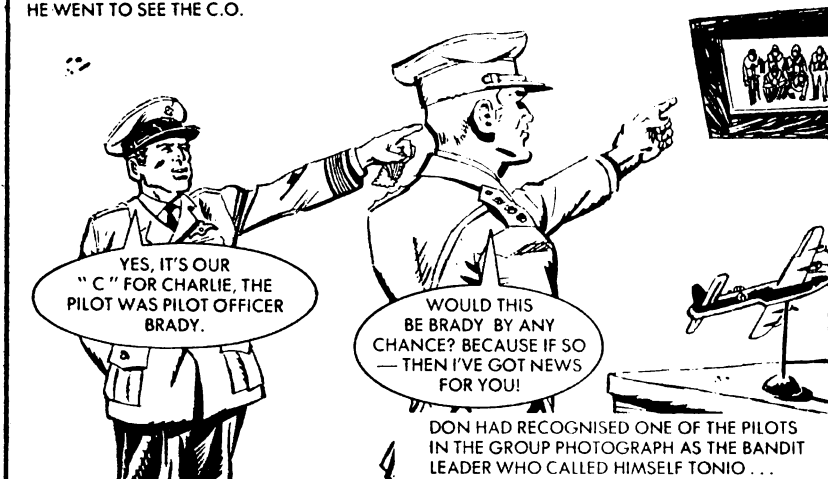
TONIO'S POCKETS PROVIDED ONLY ONE CLUE—A BADLY-CREASED PHOTOGRAPH OF A BRITISH AIRCRAFT.

THAT'S A LYSANDER, SIR. WHY WOULD THAT INTEREST HIM?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT MIGHT BE WORTH CHECKING THOSE SQUADRON MARKINGS.



THE LYSANDER WAS EASILY TRACED TO A SQUADRON BASED NEARBY WHOSE JOB WAS TO DROP SUPPLIES TO THE ITALIAN GUERRILLAS. BUT DON WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE WHEN HE WENT TO SEE THE C.O.



YES, IT'S OUR "C" FOR CHARLIE, THE PILOT WAS PILOT OFFICER BRADY.

WOULD THIS BE BRADY BY ANY CHANCE? BECAUSE IF SO — THEN I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!

DON HAD RECOGNISED ONE OF THE PILOTS IN THE GROUP PHOTOGRAPH AS THE BANDIT LEADER WHO CALLED HIMSELF TONIO ...

... AND THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT TONIO AND PILOT OFFICER BRADY WERE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON.

I'M AFRAID
YOUR PILOT OFFICER BRADY
WAS KILLED TWO DAYS AGO,
WHEN WE AMBUSHED
SOME DESERTERS.

BUT THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE! HE
FAILED TO RETURN FROM
OPERATIONS—OVER
A YEAR AGO!

THE SQUADRON LEADER WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT BRADY'S LYSANDER HAD DISAPPEARED IN THE MOUNTAINS AND NO TRACE OF THE WRECKAGE OR HIS BODY HAD EVER BEEN FOUND.

AFTER ASKING A FEW MORE QUESTIONS,
DON LEFT AND REPORTED THE WHOLE
MYSTERY TO HIS C.O., COLONEL HAMMOND.

AND YOU SAY
THE WRECKAGE WAS NEVER
FOUND? WAS THERE AN
OFFICIAL ENQUIRY?

YES, THE
LYSANDER WAS ON ITS
WAY TO DROP SUPPLIES AND
GOLD BULLION TO SOME GUERRILLAS AND
THEY WERE ASKED TO SEARCH
THE AREA. BUT THEY
FOUND NOTHING.

MENTION OF THE GOLD BULLION CARRIED BY THE LYSANDER IMMEDIATELY AROUSED THE COLONEL'S INTEREST.

THAT'S A COPY OF THE SEARCH REPORT, SIR, SIGNED BY THE OFFICER WHO WAS LEADING THE GUERILLAS. BUT IT'S NOT MUCH HELP.

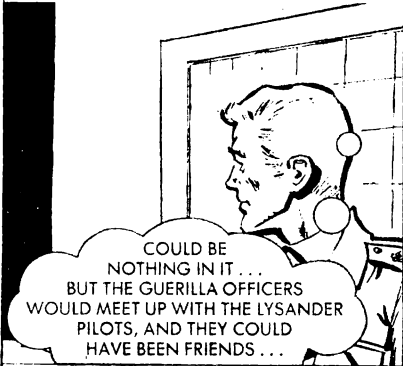
IT'S ODD THEY FOUND NO TRACE OF THE AIRCRAFT. YOU'D BETTER HAVE A WORD WITH THE GUERILLA OFFICER, IF YOU CAN FIND HIM.

UNFORTUNATELY THE OFFICER, WHO WAS FOUND TO BE A LIEUTENANT GEORGE SPURLING, WAS NO LONGER IN ITALY AS A FELLOW OFFICER EXPLAINED.

GEORGE SPURLING? YES, HE WAS A GOOD TYPE AND I WAS SORRY TO LOSE HIM WHEN HE WAS POSTED TO INDIA.

INDIA? I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP US A GREAT DEAL, THEN!


THERE WAS ONE CURIOUS COINCIDENCE, HOWEVER. ON CHECKING THEIR SERVICE RECORDS, DON FOUND THAT BRADY AND SPURLING WERE BOTH CANADIANS.



COULD BE NOTHING IN IT ... BUT THE GUERRILLA OFFICERS WOULD MEET UP WITH THE LYSANDER PILOTS, AND THEY COULD HAVE BEEN FRIENDS ...

IF THE TWO MEN HAD WORKED TOGETHER TO STEAL THE BULLION, IT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WAS NEVER FOUND.

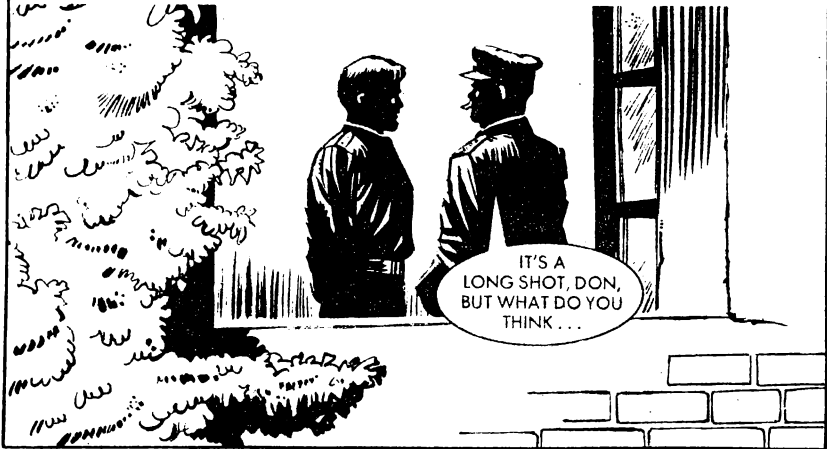
COLONEL HAMMOND AGREED WITH DON'S THEORY, BUT AS HE POINTED OUT, THERE WAS NOT A SCRAP OF PROOF THAT SPURLING EVEN KNEW BRADY.



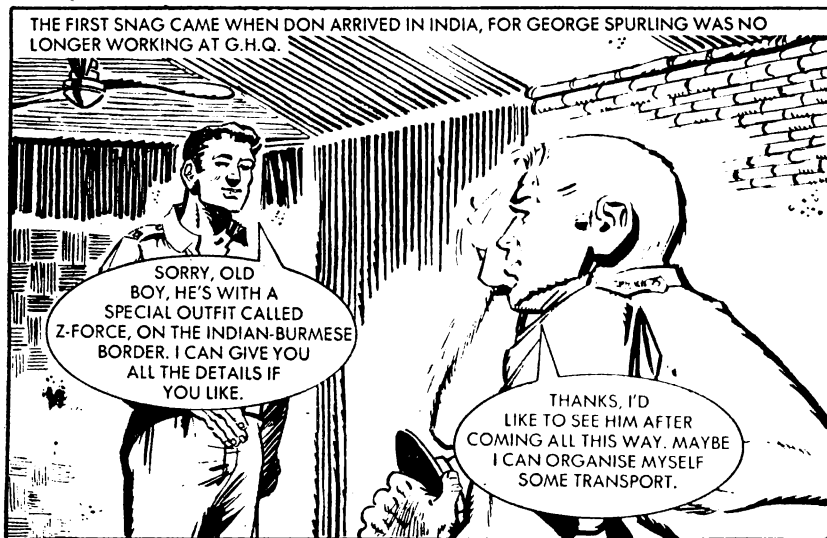
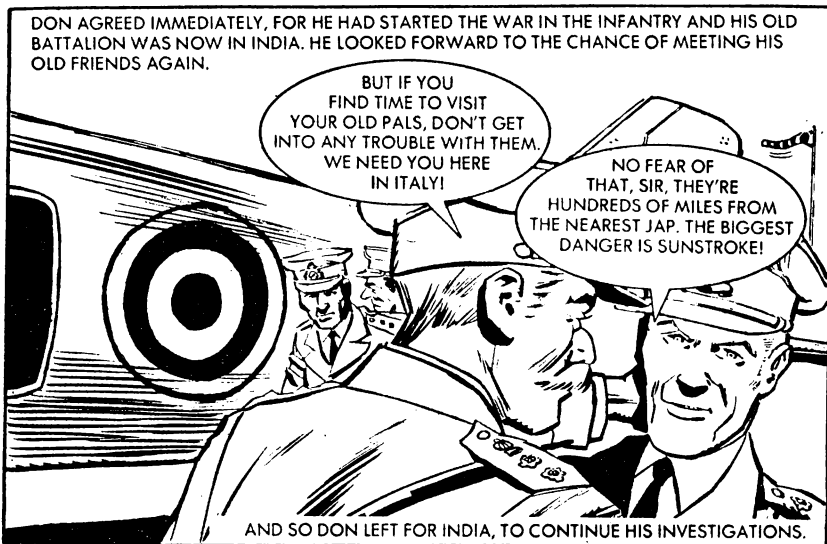
TWO OF THE BANDITS WITH TONIO CAME FROM THE AREA WHERE SPURLING WAS OPERATING, SIR.

THAT STILL ISN'T PROOF, DON. WE'D NEED A LOT MORE THAN THAT TO MAKE A CASE AGAINST HIM, IF HE'S GUILTY.

FINALLY THE COLONEL HAD AN IDEA. AS DON WAS DUE FOR LEAVE, HE OFFERED TO GET HIM TRANSPORT TO INDIA TO TRY AND FIND SPURLING. IF DON THOUGHT THE LIEUTENANT HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN BRADY'S DISAPPEARANCE OR COULD BLUFF HIM INTO ADMITTING IT, THESE STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO BRING HIM BACK TO ITALY FOR TRIAL.



IT'S A LONG SHOT, DON, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK ...



THROUGH THE INDIAN HEADQUARTERS OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH, DON WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE TO VISIT Z-FORCE — BUT HE WAS GIVEN A FRIENDLY WARNING OF WHAT TO EXPECT.

THE C.O., COLONEL BRETT, RUNS IT LIKE HIS OWN PRIVATE ARMY AND HE WON'T TOLERATE ANY INTERFERENCE. SO WATCH OUT FOR HIM!

THANKS, I'LL TRY NOT TO TREAD ON HIS TOES. I'VE MET CHARACTERS LIKE THAT BEFORE, UNFORTUNATELY.

SO DON WAS SOON ON HIS WAY AGAIN, TO HOPEFULLY FIND GEORGE SPURLING WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY A GOOD OFFICER. FOR SINCE LEAVING ITALY TO JOIN Z-FORCE, HE HAD BEEN PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN.

I'D BETTER NOT MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM BY TELLING ANYONE OUR SUSPICIONS. LEAST OF ALL COLONEL BRETT, IF HE'S AS BAD AS THEY SAY HE IS!

WHEN HE MET THE COLONEL, DON SOON REALISED WHY HE HAD BEEN WARNED TO TREAD WARILY.

THEY FLEW
YOU OUT HERE TO
CHECK A ROUTINE STATEMENT
ABOUT A MISSING AIRCRAFT? BAH,
STUPID WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY!
NO WONDER YOU HEADQUARTERS
TYPES GET NOTHING
DONE!

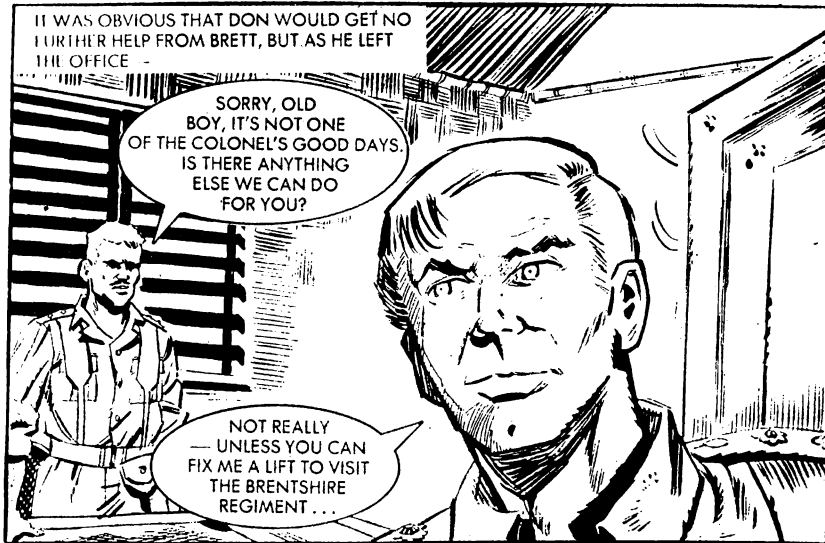
I'D BETTER
NOT EXCITE HIM ANY
MORE, OR HE'LL
EXPLODE!

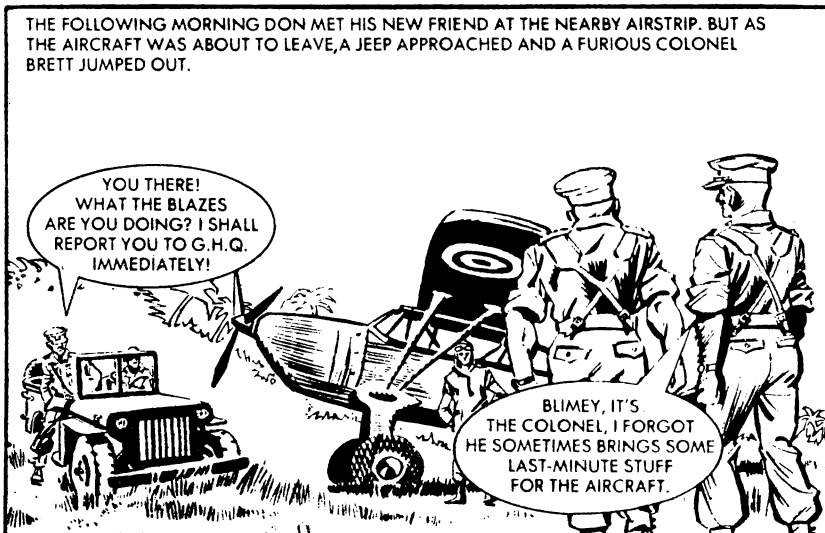
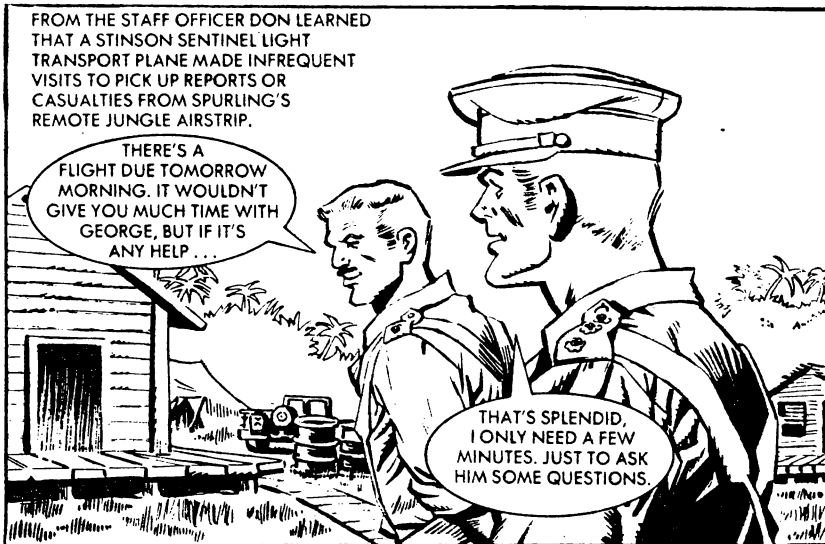
DON EXPLAINED WHO HE WAS HERE TO SEE,
AND WITH A MALICIOUS GRIN BRETT
REVEALED THAT SPURLING WAS NOT AT
THE CAMP -- AND WOULD NOT BE BACK
FOR THREE MONTHS.

BUT IF YOU
CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG
YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO
GO AND FIND HIM. HE'S SOMEWHERE
IN THAT AREA!

BUT... BUT
THAT'S BEHIND THE
JAPANESE LINES!

BEAMING TRIUMPHANTLY, BRETT AGREED.
SPURLING WAS ONCE AGAIN OPERATING WITH
GUERRILLAS BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES.





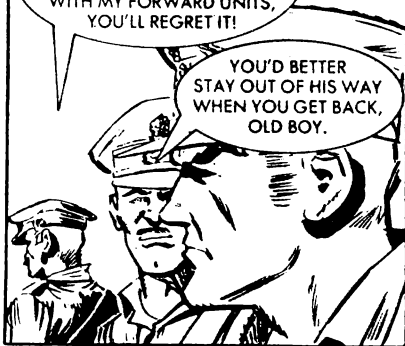
DON WAITED UNTIL THE COLONEL PAUSED FOR BREATH, THEN QUIETLY POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD GIVEN PERMISSION HIMSELF.



FOR A MOMENT DON THOUGHT THE COLONEL WAS GOING TO ORDER HIM OFF THE AIRFIELD, THEN HE TURNED AND STORMED OFF.

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS, CAPTAIN — AND IF YOU CAUSE ANY TROUBLE WITH MY FORWARD UNITS, YOU'LL REGRET IT!

YOU'D BETTER STAY OUT OF HIS WAY WHEN YOU GET BACK, OLD BOY.



CLIMBING THANKFULLY ABOARD THE SENTINEL, DON AT LAST SET OFF ON HIS LONG JOURNEY OVER THE JUNGLE, HOPEFULLY TO A MEETING WITH GEORGE SPURLING.



THE TRIP WAS BUMPY BUT UNEVENTFUL, AND ENDED IN A TINY CLEARING FAR BEHIND THE JAPANESE LINES. A BRITISH CORPORAL AND A SMALL BAND OF BURMESE GUERRILLAS WATCHED THE AIRCRAFT LAND.



TO DON'S ANNOYANCE MARK DEAN WAS EXPECTING HIM, FOR A SIGNAL HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM COLONEL BRETT.



SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY, MARK PRODUCED THE SIGNAL THAT BRETT HAD SENT AND DON READ IT.



IT WAS ALL DON NEEDED — AND AFTER CURTLY INFORMING THE PILOT TO LEAVE WITHOUT HIM, HE PREPARED TO SET OFF FOR Z-FORCE BASE WITH CORPORAL DEAN AND THE GUERILLAS.



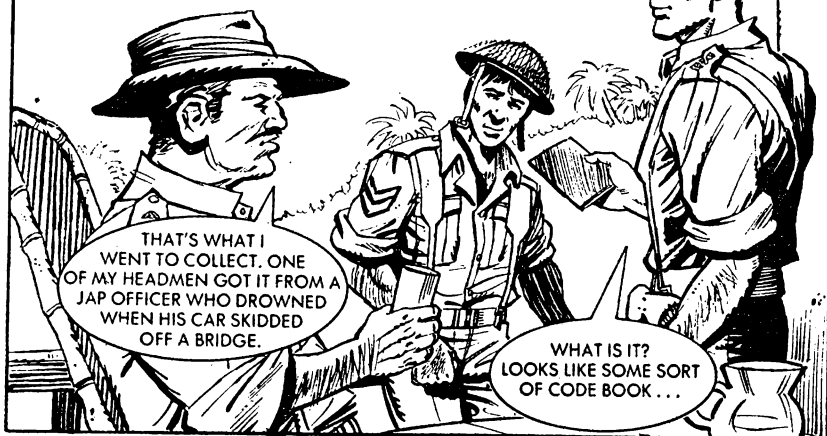
FORTUNATELY DON WAS IN GOOD CONDITION, FOR THE LONG JOURNEY TO SPURLING'S REMOTE CAMP MEANT A LONG AND EXHAUSTING TREK THROUGH THE JUNGLE.



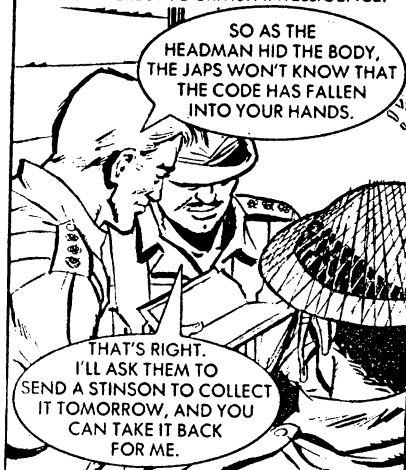
IT WAS A RELIEF FOR DON TO REACH THE TINY CAMP CONCEALED IN THE JUNGLE, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO SIGN OF SPURLING.



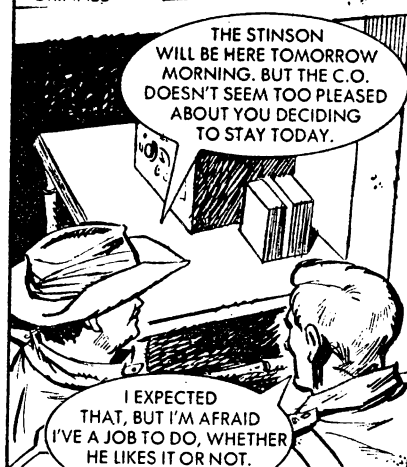
IT WAS ALMOST TWO HOURS BEFORE GEORGE SPURLING ARRIVED, AND HE WAS SURPRISED TO SEE HIS VISITOR. HE QUICKLY EXPLAINED WHY HE HAD BEEN AWAY.



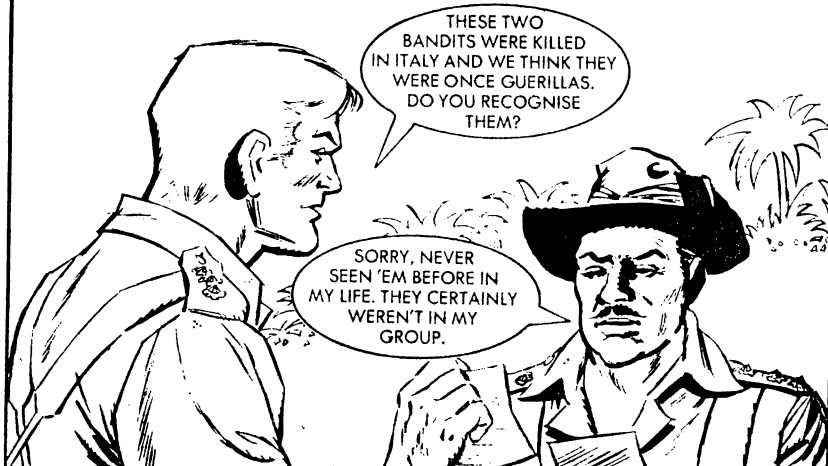
GEORGE EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS A JAPANESE SIGNALS CODE BOOK, AND OF VITAL INTEREST TO BRITISH INTELLIGENCE.



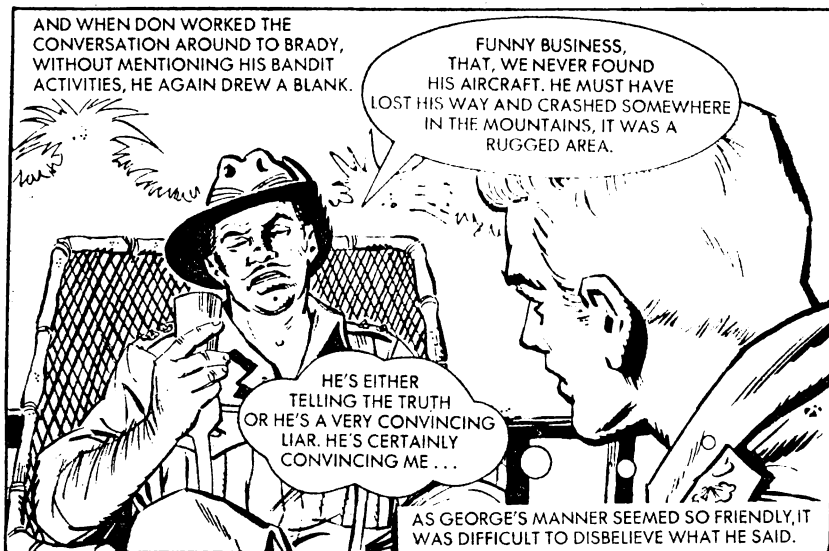
AFTER HE HAD FINISHED TALKING WITH COLONEL BRETT ON THE RADIO, GEORGE GRINNED—

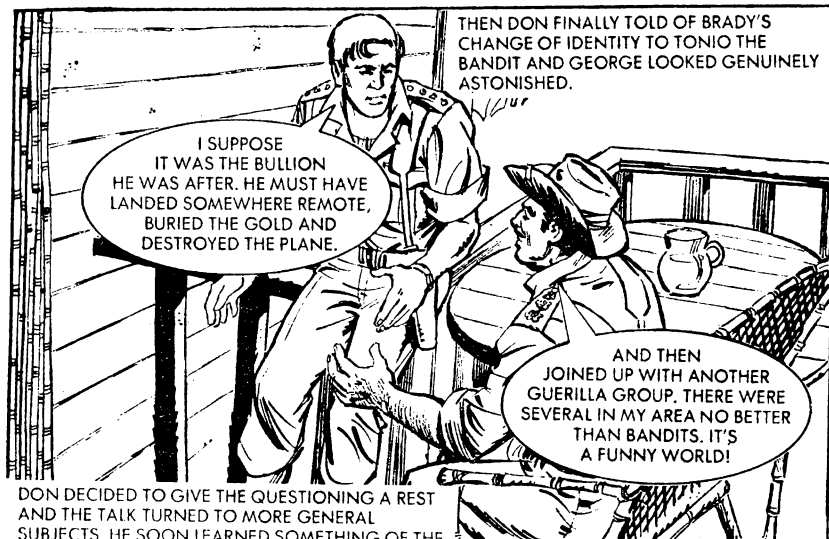


WHILE MARK ORGANISED THE POSTING OF SENTRIES THE TWO OFFICERS SETTLED DOWN AT LAST TO TALK. DON BEGAN BY SHOWING GEORGE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS —



AND WHEN DON WORKED THE CONVERSATION AROUND TO BRADY, WITHOUT MENTIONING HIS BANDIT ACTIVITIES, HE AGAIN DREW A BLANK.

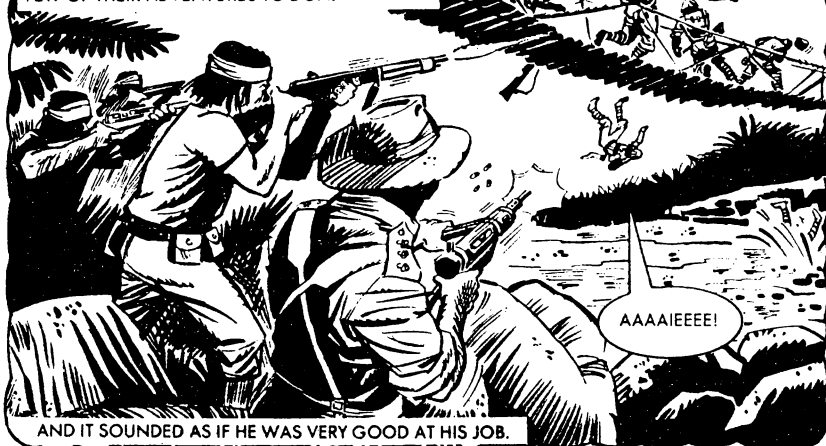




DON DECIDED TO GIVE THE QUESTIONING A REST AND THE TALK TURNED TO MORE GENERAL SUBJECTS. HE SOON LEARNED SOMETHING OF THE WORK THE GUERILLAS WERE DOING AS MARK BRANDISHED A VERY DANGEROUS-LOOKING JAPANESE SAMURAI SWORD.



AS WELL AS TRAINING THE NATIVE GUERRILLAS, GEORGE HAD TO MAKE LIFE AS UNPLEASANT AS POSSIBLE FOR THE JAPANESE. HE RECOUNTED A FEW OF THEIR ADVENTURES TO DON.



AND IT SOUNDED AS IF HE WAS VERY GOOD AT HIS JOB.

THAT NIGHT, CURLED IN BORROWED BLANKETS AND KEPT AWAKE BY THE JUNGLE NOISES, DON HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK.

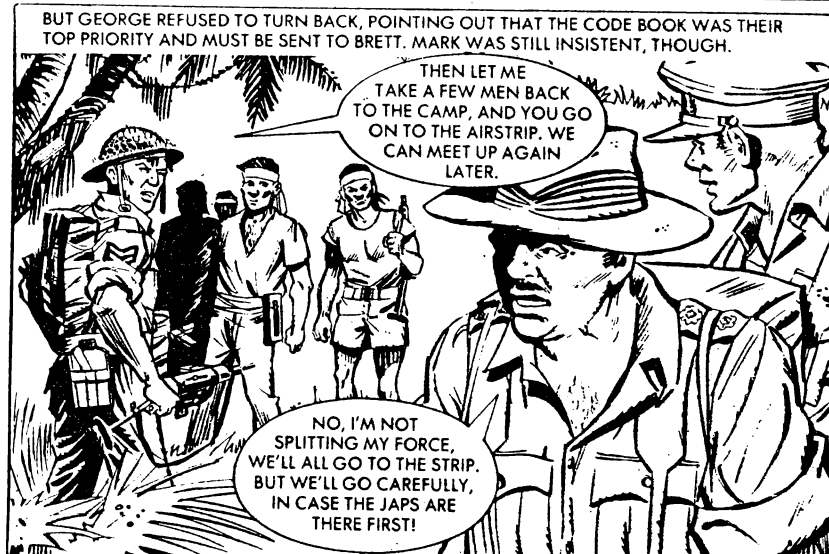
I DON'T SEE HOW HE COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH BRADY. AND EVEN IF HE WAS, THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL EVER PROVE IT ...



SO DON WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO G.H.Q. WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE, AND THE MYSTERY STILL UNEXPLAINED.

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING THEY SET OFF FOR THE AIRSTRIP, WITH DON CARRYING THE PRECIOUS CODE BOOK WHICH HE WOULD DELIVER TO COLONEL BRETT.





THEY MOVED ON CAUTIOUSLY AND DON FOUND MARK'S ANXIETY SURPRISING, FOR THE CORPORAL HAD AT FIRST APPEARED TOUGH AND COURAGEOUS.

TAKE IT EASY, WE DON'T WANT TO WALK INTO AN AMBUSH.

IF MARK'S SO SCARED OF THE JAPS, WHY WAS HE SO ANXIOUS TO PRESS ON INTO POSSIBLE TROUBLE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...

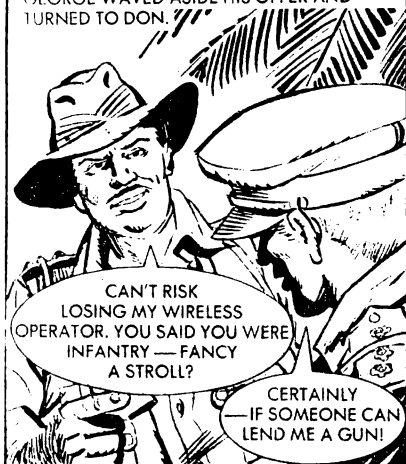
THIS WAS YET ANOTHER ADDITION TO DON'S JIGSAW PUZZLE — ONE WHICH HE JUST COULDN'T PIECE TOGETHER.

IT WAS JUST AS WELL THEY WERE MOVING QUIETLY, FOR NEAR THE AIRSTRIP THEY CAME UPON FRESHLY-MADE TRACKS.

JAPS, YOU CAN SEE THE DISTINCTIVE PATTERN OF THEIR BOOTS. BUT IS IT A ROUTINE PATROL, OR ARE THEY AT THE AIRSTRIP?

SINCE WE'VE GOT THIS FAR WE'D BETTER FIND OUT. WANT ME TO SCOUT AHEAD WITH A COUPLE OF MEN?

MARK'S ANXIETY WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT DUE TO ANY FEAR OF THE JAPANESE, BUT GEORGE WAVED ASIDE HIS OFFER AND TURNED TO DON.



WITH A STEN BELONGING TO ONE OF THE GUERRILLAS, DON FOLLOWED GEORGE INTO THE TANGLED UNDERGROWTH TO SCOUT AHEAD.



GEORGE'S FEARS WERE WELL-FOUNDED, FOR AS THEY APPROACHED THE AIRSTRIP THEY CAME UPON THE JAPANESE, READY AND WAITING.



HURRYING BACK TO THE OTHERS, GEORGE IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISHED WIRELESS CONTACT WITH THE R.A.F. TO WARN OF THE DANGER.



THEN, JUST AS THEY MOVED OFF, THEY ENCOUNTERED MORE JAPANESE APPROACHING THE AIRSTRIP.



IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME DON HAD BEEN UNDER FIRE, BUT HE APPRECIATED THE COOL EFFICIENCY OF THE GUERILLAS AS THEY HALTED THE ADVANCING JAPS.



KNOWING THE SHOOTING WOULD BRING MORE JAPS TO THE SCENE, GEORGE HASTILY WITHDREW HIS SMALL FORCE EVEN AS A PERFECTLY-THROWN GRENADE CLAIMED MORE OF THEIR OPPONENTS.



PAUSING ONLY TO SET A FEW BOOBY-TRAPS TO DELAY ANY PURSUERS, THEY HEADED SWIFTLY BACK TO THEIR CAMP.

I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK IT'S LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME. USUALLY WE'RE THE ONES TO SPRING THE SURPRISES.

I WAS VERY IMPRESSED, YOUR BLOKES FOUGHT LIKE VETERANS. THEY'RE A CREDIT TO YOU.

DON HAD NOW REJECTED ANY THOUGHTS OF INCRIMINATING GEORGE, ESPECIALLY AS HE WAS FINDING OUT JUST HOW GOOD AN OFFICER THE MAN WAS.

THEY APPROACHED THE CAMP CAUTIOUSLY, IN CASE THE JAPS HAD GOT THERE FIRST, BUT ALL WAS WELL, AS ONE OF THE GUERILLAS SCOUTING AHEAD REPORTED.

MAYBE THEY DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET ALL THE INFORMATION THEY WANTED FROM THE BLOKE THEY CAPTURED, OR THEY'D HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW.

WE CAN'T GAMBLE ON IT, I RECKON WE'LL STILL HAVE TO MOVE.

DON WAS ABOUT TO HELP WITH MOVING CAMP,
BUT GEORGE HAD OTHER IDEAS —

WHILE MARK
AND I ORGANISE
THE STORES AND CLEAR UP,
WOULD YOU GO BACK WITH
BUTAI AND SET A FEW MORE
• BOOBY-TRAPS ON
THE TRACK?

SURE, IT'S
NICE TO BE ABLE
TO MAKE MYSELF
USEFUL.

BUTAI WAS GEORGE'S BURMESE
INTERPRETER. BUT AS HE HURRIED OFF TO
COLLECT SOME GRENADES, DON HAD TIME
FOR REFLECTION.

GEORGE HAS
SET ALL THE OTHER
BOOBY-TRAPS HIMSELF. I
WONDER WHY HE WAS SO
ANXIOUS TO GET ME
OUT OF THE WAY...

ALMOST ASHAMED OF HIS RENEWED
SUSPICIONS, DON RETURNED QUIETLY TO
THE TENT AND ENTERED.

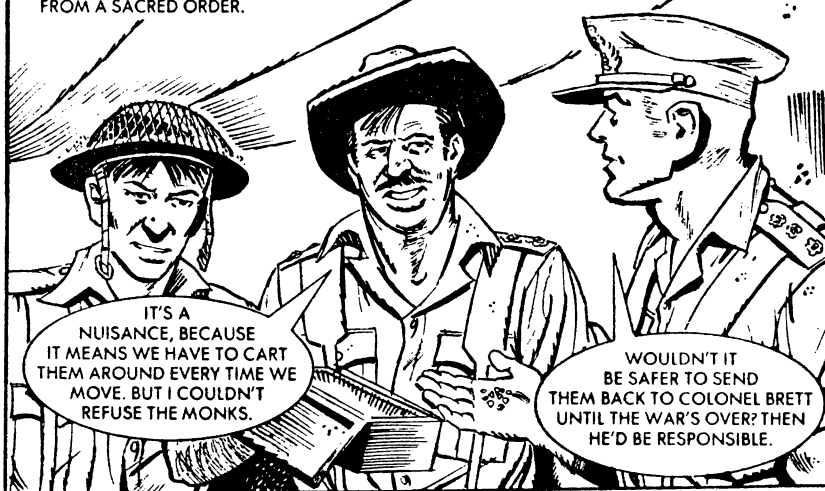
THEY MUST
BE PACKING, BUT IT
SOUNDS AS IF SOMEONE'S
USING A SPADE!

HE MOVED CLOSER TO THE
SCREENED-OFF AREA.

THERE WAS NO MISTAKING THE SOUND OF HURRIED DIGGING, AND AS DON ENTERED THE INNER PART, HE WAS CONFRONTED BY THE SIGHT OF GEORGE AND MARK GREEDILY EYEING A BOX OF VALUABLE-LOOKING GEMS.



BOTH MEN SUDDENLY LOOKED EMBARRASSED, AND GEORGE EXPLAINED THAT THE RUBIES WERE TEMPLE TREASURES THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIM FOR SAFE KEEPING BY MONKS FROM A SACRED ORDER.



GEORGE OBVIOUSLY DETECTED DON'S SUSPICION, AND TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM THERE WAS NOTHING FISHY GOING ON.

DON'T WORRY, THEY'VE ALL BEEN CHECKED AND LISTED. ANYWAY, MARK CAN LOOK AFTER THEM WHILE I HELP YOU SET THE BOOBY-TRAPS.

I WONDER IF THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T WANT MARK TO COME BACK ON HIS OWN? MAYBE HE DOESN'T TRUST HIM TOO FAR...

WHATEVER HIS REASONS, GEORGE SEEMED CHEERFUL ENOUGH AS THEY SET THE REMAINING BOOBY-TRAPS ON THE TRACK.

THAT'S PROBABLY THE NEAREST I'LL EVER GET TO A FORTUNE. BUT RUBIES AREN'T MUCH GOOD TO ANYONE IN THE JUNGLE.

NO, BUT THEY'RE JOLLY USEFUL ANYWHERE ELSE... AND I WONDER WHAT PLANS YOU HAD FOR THEM EVENTUALLY?

WITH DON AS SUSPICIOUS AS EVER AGAIN, THEY CARRIED ON WITH THE JOB BEFORE RETURNING TO THE CAMP.

MEANWHILE MARK HAD ORGANISED PORTERS FROM A NATIVE TRIBE WHO LIVED NEAR THE CAMP TO CARRY THEIR STORES.



ONCE THE PORTERS CARRYING THE PRECIOUS STORES WERE ON THEIR WAY, ONLY THE FIGHTING MEN REMAINED. THEY DID THE BEST THEY COULD TO COVER THEIR TRACKS.



WITH THE RUBIES AND THE CODE BOOK SAFELY IN HIS PACK, GEORGE PREPARED A FINAL SURPRISE FOR THE JAPANESE BEFORE THEY SET OFF.



SUDDENLY, FROM THE JUNGLE, THERE WAS THE SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION —



LEAVING THE ENEMY TO THEIR EMPTY VICTORY, THE SMALL PARTY OF GUERRILLAS FOLLOWED GEORGE INTO THE JUNGLE. BEHIND THEM THEY COULD HEAR ANOTHER EXPLOSION.



BUT THE COMMANDER OF THE PURSUING JAPANESE PATROL WAS SMARTER THAN GEORGE HAD ANTICIPATED, AND HE HAD SENT A SMALL FLANKING PARTY ON AHEAD.



FORTUNATELY THEY HAD NO TIME TO LAY A PROPER AMBUSH BEFORE GEORGE AND HIS MEN REACHED THEM.



GEORGE KNEW THEY HAD TO GET PAST THE JAP FORCE OR THEY WOULD BE TRAPPED—AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY ...



DON GAVE COVERING FIRE AS THEY HEADED FOR SAFETY, BUT MARK FELL WHEN A BULLET HIT HIM IN THE LEG.



THE OTHERS HADN'T NOTICED MARK WAS HIT, BUT LUCKILY DON SAW HIM AND HELPED HIM TO HIS FEET, UNDER PROTEST.



THEY CAUGHT UP WITH THE OTHERS JUST IN TIME AS THE JAPS ATTACKED WITH RENEWED FANATICISM.



AS THE JAPS TRIED TO FOLLOW UP THEY
RAN INTO THE CONCENTRATED FIRE OF
THE GUERILLAS.

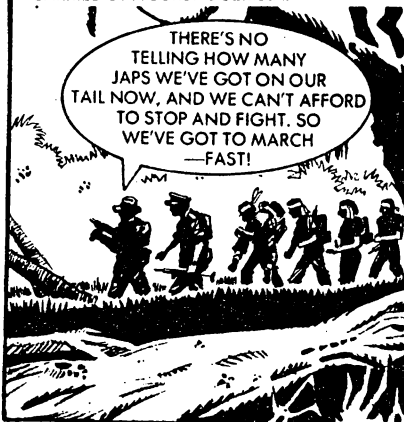


IT HAD BEEN A LUCKY ESCAPE, ALTHOUGH TWO GUERILLAS HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE FINAL
DASH FOR COVER. AND DON BANDAGED MARK'S LEG WOUND, WHICH WASN'T TOO
SERIOUS, BUT WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH TO SLOW THEM DOWN.



THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO KEEP MOVING BEFORE ANY MORE JAPS COULD WORK THEIR WAY AHEAD AGAIN. THEY SET OFF ONCE MORE, WITH MARK BEING CARRIED BY A BURLY GUERRILLA.

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY JAPS WE'VE GOT ON OUR TAIL NOW, AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO STOP AND FIGHT. SO WE'VE GOT TO MARCH —FAST!



HOWEVER THEY WERE SOON CHEERED BY THE ECHOES OF A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION THAT ERUPTED BEHIND THEM. ANOTHER BOOBY-TRAP HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL.



AAIEE! CURSE THE BRITISHERS.

AND THEY KNEW THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THEIR PURSUERS WOULD NOT FOLLOW THEM ANY FURTHER.

AS SOON AS HE CONSIDERED IT SAFE, GEORGE CALLED A HALT SO THAT A LITTER COULD BE MADE FOR MARK. HE HIMSELF TOOK THE TIME TO SET ANOTHER TRAP FOR THEIR PURSUERS.



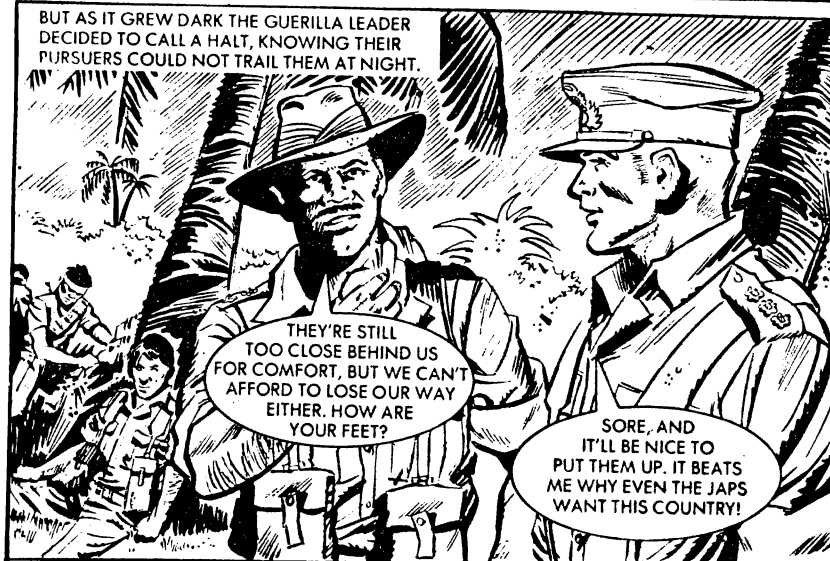
WE CAN AFFORD A FEW HOURS' REST AFTER IT'S DARK, WE'VE MADE PRETTY GOOD TIME. BUT IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE JAPS.

HOW MUCH FURTHER IS THE AIRSTRIP? DO WE HAVE TO MARCH ALL NIGHT, OR WILL THERE BE TIME TO REST?

GEORGE LEFT A FEW OTHER BOOBY-TRAPS ON THE TRAIL, AND IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THEY LEARNED THAT THE JAPS WERE STILL FOLLOWING CLOSELY.



BUT AS IT GREW DARK THE GUERILLA LEADER DECIDED TO CALL A HALT, KNOWING THEIR PURSUERS COULD NOT TRAIL THEM AT NIGHT.



THEY ALL SAT DOWN TO TAKE A WELL-EARNED REST AS DUSK QUICKLY GAVE WAY TO DARKNESS. HOWEVER IT WAS OBVIOUS WHILE THEY WERE EATING THAT GEORGE HAD SOMETHING ON HIS MIND, AND EVENTUALLY HE EXPLAINED.

I RECKON IT'S TIME WE HIT BACK AT THE JAPS, SO FAR THEY'VE HAD EVERYTHING THEIR OWN WAY. THEY'LL BE GETTING TOO CONFIDENT.

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST? THERE WON'T BE TIME TO AMBUSH THEM TOMORROW MORNING

TO DON'S SURPRISE, GEORGE WANTED TO MAKE A NIGHT ATTACK AND TAKE THE JAPS BY SURPRISE.

BUT HOW WOULD WE FIND THEM?

EASY, THEY THINK THEY'VE GOT US ON THE RUN, SO THEY'LL JUST STOP ON OUR TRACKS UNTIL IT'S LIGHT ENOUGH TO MOVE ON.

BEING THE SEASONED CAMPAIGNER THAT HE WAS, GEORGE OBVIOUSLY KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, SO DON OFFERED TO JOIN HIM. AND THEY STARTED TO MAKE PLANS.

MARK WILL BE OK HERE, AND IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG BUTAI CAN TAKE HIM TO THE AIRSTRIP WITH THE RUBIES AND CODE BOOK.

PROVIDING THEY COULD FIND THE JAPANESE, IT LOOKED AS IF THEY STOOD A GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

LEAVING ENOUGH MEN TO CARRY MARK TO THE AIRSTRIP, GEORGE AND DON SET OFF WITH THE REST TO SPRING THEIR SURPRISE ON THE UNSUSPECTING JAPS.



IT WAS NOT EASY TO RETRACE THEIR STEPS IN THE DARK, BUT FORTUNATELY ONE OF THE GUERRILLAS WAS A GOOD TRACKER AND LED THEM SURELY AND CONFIDENTLY.



IT TOOK THEM ALMOST AN HOUR TO LOCATE THEIR PURSUERS, WHO HAD CAMPED ON THE TRACK JUST AS GEORGE HAD PREDICTED.

WE'VE FOUND 'EM—I CAN EVEN SMELL THE WOOD-SMOKE FROM THEIR FIRES!! I TOLD YOU THEY WERE OVERCONFIDENT!

I CAN SEE A FAINT GLOW THROUGH THERE, SOMEONE'S JUST THROWN SOME MORE WOOD ON TO STAY AWAKE.

THE JAPANESE HAD POSTED A SENTRY, BUT GEORGE APPROACHED LIKE A SHADOW UNTIL HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO POUNCE.

SORRY, CHUM, BUT A MAN'S ONLY ALLOWED TO BE CARELESS ONCE IN THE JUNGLE!

UUUHH...

MOMENTS LATER THE GUERILLAS WERE MOVING
SILENTLY INTO POSITION, READY TO ATTACK.



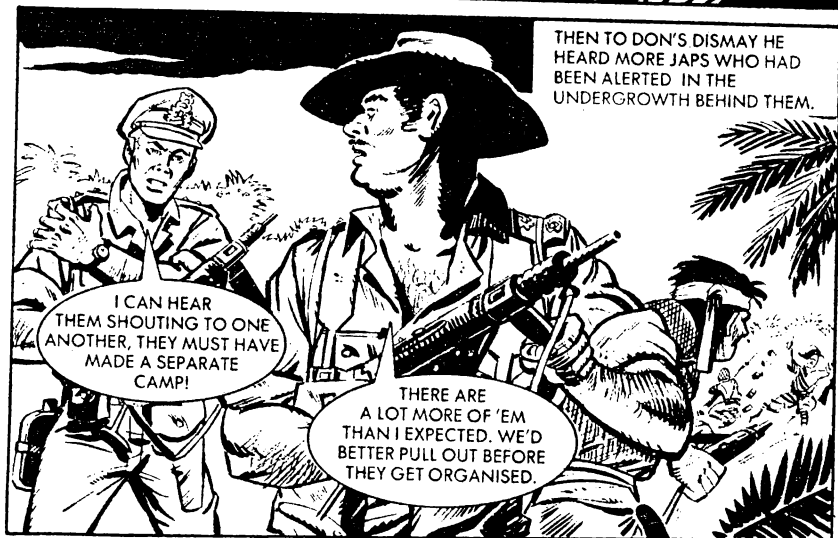
THE EXPLODING GRENADE WAS THE
SIGNAL FOR EVERY GUERILLA TO EMPTY
HIS GUN INTO THE UNSUSPECTING
JAPANESE.



THE ATTACK WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS, BUT SOME OF THE JAPS WHO HAD BEEN SLEEPING IN THE UNDERGROWTH SURVIVED AND MANAGED TO PUT UP SOME RESISTANCE.

AAGHHH!

STAY UNDER COVER, THEY'VE STILL GOT SOME FIGHT LEFT IN 'EM ...



THEN TO DON'S DISMAY HE HEARD MORE JAPS WHO HAD BEEN ALERTED IN THE UNDERGROWTH BEHIND THEM.

I CAN HEAR THEM SHOUTING TO ONE ANOTHER, THEY MUST HAVE MADE A SEPARATE CAMP!

THERE ARE A LOT MORE OF 'EM THAN I EXPECTED. WE'D BETTER PULL OUT BEFORE THEY GET ORGANISED.

BUT PULLING OUT WAS NOT GOING TO BE EASY, FOR THE AREA SUDDENLY SEEMED TO BE SWARMING WITH JAPANESE.



GEORGE AND HIS GUERRILLAS QUICKLY AND EXPERTLY CHANGED DIRECTION, AWAY FROM TROUBLE, BUT DON WAS SLOW AND FOUND HIMSELF AT THE REAR AND ON HIS OWN.



BUT AS HE TURNED TO FOLLOW THE OTHERS, A BURLY JAPANESE LAUNCHED HIMSELF FROM THE SHADOWS AND DREW A KNIFE, FORCING DON TO THE GROUND.



DESPITE HIS OPPONENT'S STRENGTH, DON WAS JUST GETTING THE UPPER HAND WHEN ANOTHER JAP APPEARED AND RUSHED TO THE RESCUE.



SUDDENLY, JUST AS DON DEALT WITH ONE JAP, THERE WAS A BURST OF AUTOMATIC FIRE FROM THE UNDERGROWTH AND THE NEW ASSAILANT COLLAPSED WITH A GROAN. FORTUNATELY GEORGE HAD RETURNED AND SEEN DON'S PREDICAMENT.



AS MORE JAPANESE CAME RUSHING TO THE SCENE, GEORGE AND DON WITHDREW HASTILY INTO THE DARKNESS. A WELL-AIMED GRENADE ENSURED THEIR SAFE GETAWAY.



GEORGE LED THE WAY CONFIDENTLY, AND MOMENTS LATER A WHISPERED CHALLENGE REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF THE GUERRILLAS.

WE'D BETTER GET BACK NOW, THEY WON'T FOLLOW UNTIL IT'S LIGHT ENOUGH TO FIND OUR TRACKS.

I RECKON WE TAUGHT THE JAPS A LESSON THEY'LL REMEMBER.

BUT GEORGE WAS NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH THEIR SUCCESS, FOR THE JAPANESE WERE IN FAR GREATER FORCE THAN HE HAD EXPECTED.

YOU SHOULD BE PLEASED THAT WE GOT AWAY WITH SO FEW CASUALTIES.

I AM, BUT I WAS HOPING TO KNOCK THEM OUT COMPLETELY. AND NOW THEY'LL BE MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO TRACK US DOWN.

THEY FOUND MARK WAITING ANXIOUSLY WITH HIS STRETCHER-BEARERS, FOR THE SOUND OF FIRING HAD CARRIED ON THE STILL NIGHT AIR TO WHERE THEY HAD HALTED.

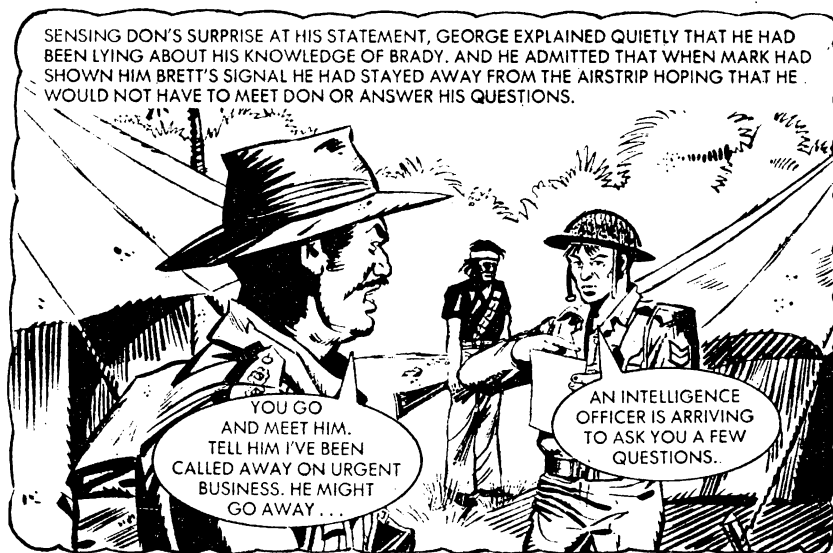
IT SOUNDED A REAL BATTLE, I ALMOST CAME TO GIVE YOU A HAND. WHO WON?

THEY DID, UNFORTUNATELY, WE DIDN'T KILL THEM ALL. NOW YOU'D BETTER GET SOME REST, IT'LL BE LIGHT IN A FEW HOURS.

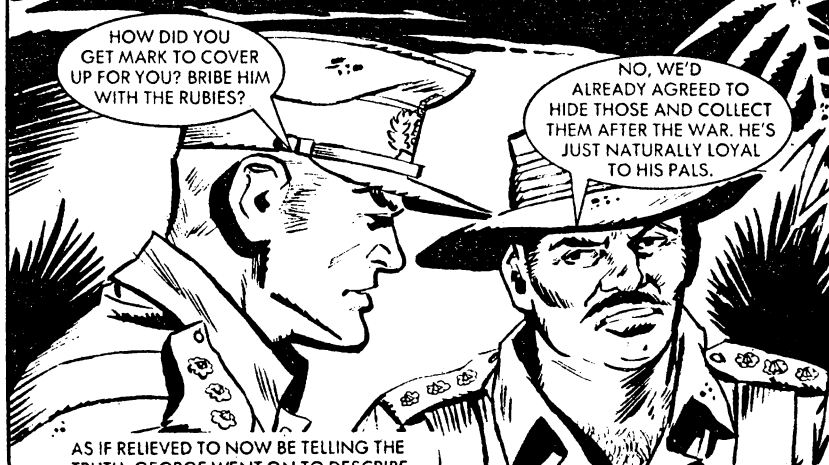
MARK SETTLED DOWN TO REST, LEAVING DON AND GEORGE TO FIX THEMSELVES SOME FOOD.



SENSING DON'S SURPRISE AT HIS STATEMENT, GEORGE EXPLAINED QUIETLY THAT HE HAD BEEN LYING ABOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF BRADY. AND HE ADMITTED THAT WHEN MARK HAD SHOWN HIM BRETT'S SIGNAL HE HAD STAYED AWAY FROM THE AIRSTRIP HOPING THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO MEET DON OR ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS.



THE JAP CODE BOOK, HE SAID, WAS ALREADY AT THE CAMP AND HE HAD JUST USED THAT AS AN EXCUSE FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE.



AS IF RELIEVED TO NOW BE TELLING THE TRUTH, GEORGE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE HOW HE HAD FIRST MET BRADY THROUGH AN ITALIAN BLACK MARKET CONTACT.



LIKE THE CANADIAN PILOT, GEORGE DEALT WITH THE BUYING AND SELLING OF BLACK-MARKET GOODS, AND THEY BEGAN TALKING.

THERE'S MONEY IN THIS WAR, GEORGE. WITH A BIT OF RISK A MAN COULD BE RICH.

I TAKE ENOUGH RISKS WITH THE JERRIES, CHUM! I'M CONTENT TO MAKE A BIT EXTRA ON THE SIDE DEALING WITH MARIO.

SOON BRADY GOT UP TO LEAVE, BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS HE CONSIDERED GETTING RICH MORE IMPORTANT THAN HIS JOB.

E R M O

WE MUST KEEP IN TOUCH, GEORGE. IF YOU USED YOUR GUERRILLAS PROPERLY YOU COULD WIN YOURSELF A FORTUNE.

NO THANKS, I'D RATHER STICK TO FIDDLING SUPPLIES AND MAKE SURE I DON'T GET CAUGHT.



TO GEORGE'S ASTONISHMENT THE PILOT WAS BRADY, WHO EXPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE AIRCRAFT.

WITH ANY
LUCK IT'LL FLY FOR
MILES BEFORE IT CRASHES,
AND NOBODY WILL EVER
FIND IT.

I... DON'T
UNDERSTAND! WHAT DIFFERENCE
DOES IT MAKE?

BRADY REVEALED THAT MARIO, THE ITALIAN BLACK MARKETEE, HAD BEEN MURDERED AND NATURALLY HE WAS A PRIME SUSPECT.

I DIDN'T
KILL HIM, BUT I WAS
INVOLVED SO I HAD TO GET
AWAY. NOW I'M OFFICIALLY MISSING
IN ACTION, AND NOBODY'S GOING
TO BOTHER WITH ME
ANY MORE!

BUT WHERE
WILL YOU GO? YOU CAN'T
JUST DISAPPEAR...

BRADY TOLD HOW, THROUGH MARIO, HE HAD MADE CONTACT WITH SOME ITALIAN PARTISANS WHO WERE VIRTUALLY BANDITS. THEY WERE OPERATING NEAR GEORGE'S AREA AND ONCE WITH THEM HE COULD CHANGE HIS IDENTITY AND MAKE AN ILLEGAL FORTUNE. ALL HE NEEDED FROM GEORGE WAS HIS PROMISE THAT HE WOULD REMAIN SILENT ABOUT WHAT HE KNEW.



AND FOR HIS TROUBLE, BRADY EXPLAINED THAT GEORGE COULD KEEP THE GOLD BULLION WHICH, ALONG WITH THE SUPPLIES, HAD BEEN PARACHUTED FROM THE LYSANDER FOR THE USE OF THE PARTISANS.

I SUPPOSE
IF I TOLD THEM YOUR
LYSANDER HADN'T TURNED UP
THEY'D SEND MORE BULLION
AND SUPPLIES ...



IT WAS TOO TEMPTING FOR GEORGE, AND HE AGREED TO CO-OPERATE. THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH HIS PARTISANS WHO HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT WAS REALLY GOING ON.



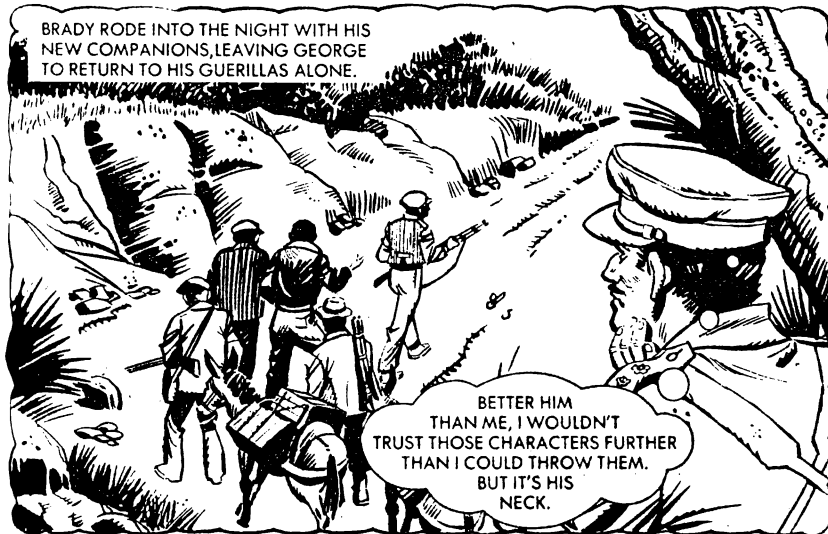
WHEN THE LYSANDER WAS OFFICIALLY REPORTED MISSING, GEORGE WAS ASKED BY THE R.A.F. TO CARRY OUT A SEARCH IN HIS AREA, WHICH, OF COURSE, DID NOT GO AHEAD —



AND AFTER MAKING CONTACT WITH THE VILLAINOUS-LOOKING BANDIT GROUP, GEORGE ESCORTED BRADY TO A MEETING PLACE WHERE THEY WERE WAITING TO PICK HIM UP.



BRADY RODE INTO THE NIGHT WITH HIS NEW COMPANIONS, LEAVING GEORGE TO RETURN TO HIS GUERRILLAS ALONE.





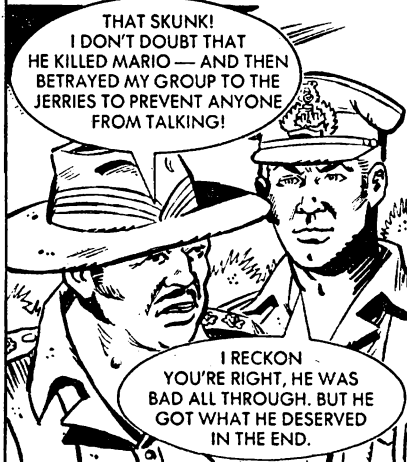
GEORGE WAS ONE OF THE VERY FEW TO ESCAPE, FIGHTING HIS WAY THROUGH THE ATTACKERS AS THEY CLOSED IN.



AFTER AN ARDUOUS JOURNEY BACK TO THE BRITISH LINES, GEORGE WAS GIVEN LEAVE AND THEN POSTED TO A STAFF JOB IN INDIA, AS HIS PARTISAN GROUP HAD BEEN GREATLY DEPLETED.



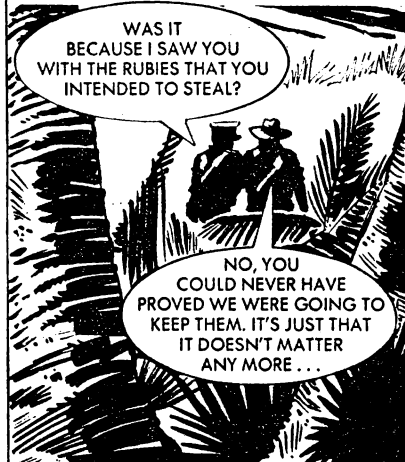
AT THE MENTION OF BRADY'S NAME, GEORGE'S LIP CURLED INTO A SCORNFUL SNEER.



THAT SKUNK!
I DON'T DOUBT THAT
HE KILLED MARIO — AND THEN
BETRAYED MY GROUP TO THE
JERRIES TO PREVENT ANYONE
FROM TALKING!

I RECKON
YOU'RE RIGHT, HE WAS
BAD ALL THROUGH. BUT HE
GOT WHAT HE DESERVED
IN THE END.

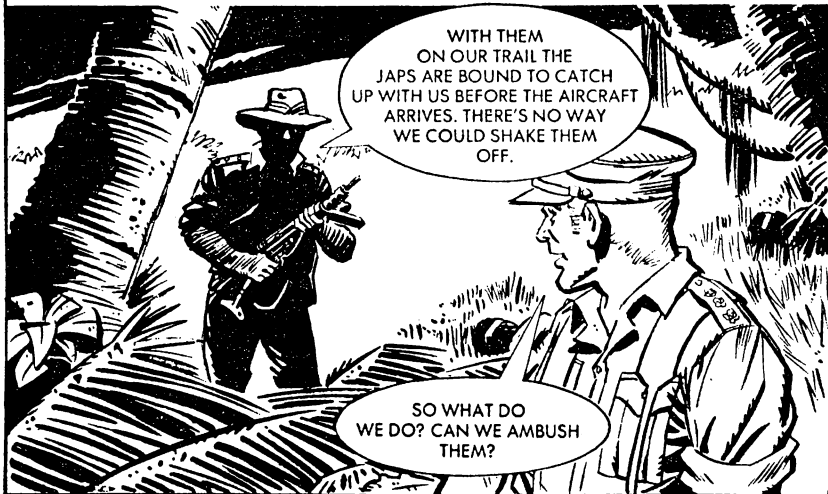
ONLY ONE THING STILL PUZZLED DON —
WHY GEORGE HAD CONFESSED WHEN HE
COULD HAVE REMAINED SILENT.



WAS IT
BECAUSE I SAW YOU
WITH THE RUBIES THAT YOU
INTENDED TO STEAL?

NO, YOU
COULD NEVER HAVE
PROVED WE WERE GOING TO
KEEP THEM. IT'S JUST THAT
IT DOESN'T MATTER
ANY MORE...

WITH A GRIM SMILE, GEORGE EXPLAINED THAT DURING THE ATTACK ON THE JAPS HE HAD
SEEN SOME SAKAI TRACKERS WITH THEM — AND THAT MEANT NO ESCAPE.



WITH THEM
ON OUR TRAIL THE
JAPS ARE BOUND TO CATCH
UP WITH US BEFORE THE AIRCRAFT
ARRIVES. THERE'S NO WAY
WE COULD SHAKE THEM
OFF.

SO WHAT DO
WE DO? CAN WE AMBUSH
THEM?

GEORGE'S SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEM WAS A GRIM ONE —

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY — YOU'RE GOING TO GET MARK AND THE CODE BOOK ON THE SENTINEL. AND I'M STAYING HERE WITH MY MEN TO DELAY THE JAPS!

BUT THEY'LL SURROUND YOU . . . IT WOULD BE SUICIDE . . .

AT LAST DON REALISED. GEORGE KNEW THAT HIS CONFESSION COULD DO HIM NO HARM AS HE WOULD NOT SURVIVE.

DON PROTESTED BUT GEORGE WOULD NOT LISTEN TO ANY ARGUMENT, AND JUST BEFORE DAWN HE ROUSED HIS MEN AND EXPLAINED HIS PLAN.

LOOK, GEORGE, I DON'T HAVE TO GO WITH MARK. AN EXTRA GUN MIGHT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE . . .

THANKS, PAL, BUT I'LL MANAGE. YOU JUST GET THE RUBIES AND THE CODE BOOK TO BRETT.

FINALLY ACCEPTING GEORGE'S DECISION, DON PREPARED TO LEAVE WITH THE WOUNDED MARK AND A FEW OF THE GUERILLAS.

BUT JUST AS THEY SET OFF GEORGE CALLED DON BACK FOR A FINAL WORD.



MARK ISN'T REALLY A CROOK, HE WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT THE RUBIES. SO DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HIM, EH?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. AS YOU SAID, I HAVEN'T ANY PROOF.

THE TWO MEN SHOOK HANDS AND THEN DON TURNED AWAY SADLY TO FOLLOW MARK'S STRETCHER.

THE SMALL PARTY HAD NOT GONE FAR WHEN THERE WAS A SUDDEN OUTBREAK OF SMALL-ARMS FIRE BEHIND THEM.



SOUNDS AS IF THE JAPS HAVE CAUGHT UP, SIR. I'LL BET THE BOSS WON'T LET 'EM THROUGH.

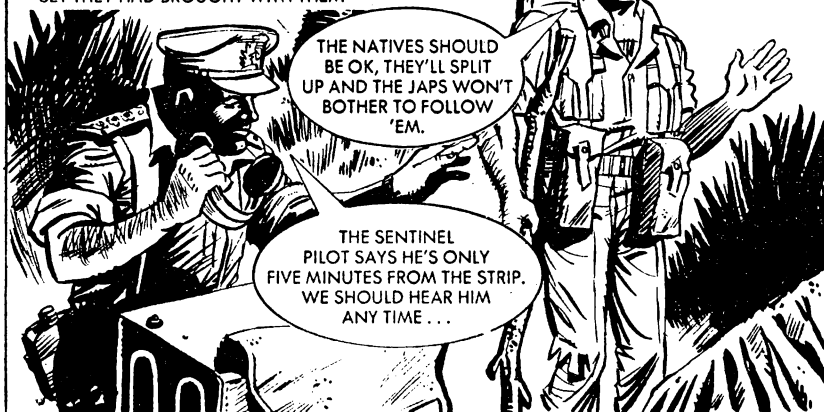
HE'S A BRAVE MAN, MARK. WE MUSTN'T WASTE THE CHANCE HE'S GIVEN US.

THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE CONTINUED UNTIL THEY HAD ALMOST REACHED THE AIRSTRIP — THEN THERE WAS AN OMINOUS SILENCE.

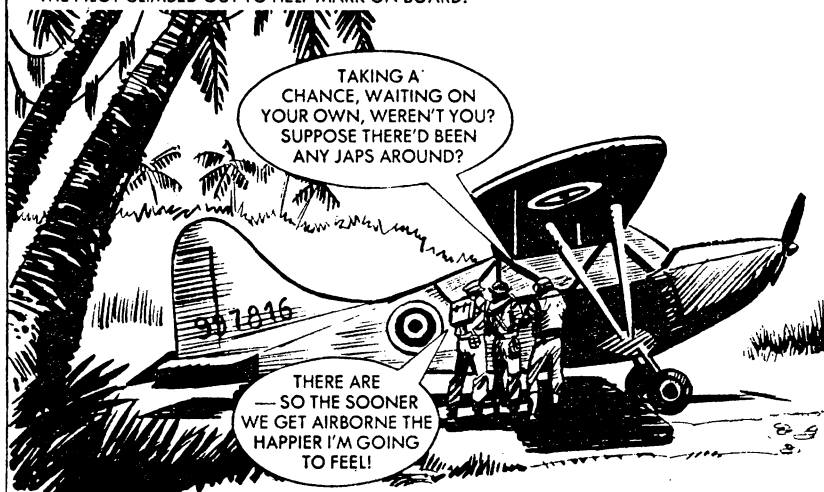


THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO STOP THEM NOW — IF THE AIRCRAFT IS LATE, WE'VE HAD IT!

DON THEN ORDERED BUTAI AND THE BEARERS TO LEAVE, FOR THERE WAS NOTHING FURTHER THEY COULD DO TO HELP, WITH MARK NOW ABLE TO USE AN IMPROVISED CRUTCH. DON MADE CONTACT WITH THE APPROACHING AIRCRAFT ON THE RADIO SET THEY HAD BROUGHT WITH THEM —



AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN AGE, THE SENTINEL CAME IN TO A PERFECT LANDING. THE PILOT CLIMBED OUT TO HELP MARK ON BOARD.



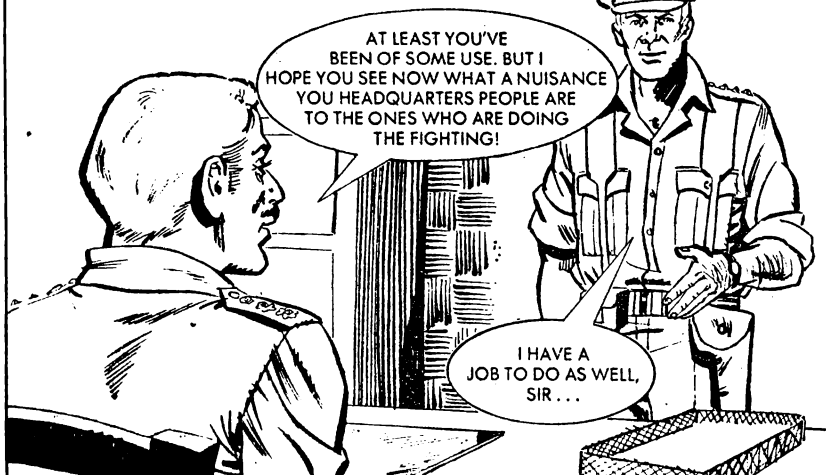
THEY WERE JUST IN TIME, FOR AS THE SENTINEL GATHERED SPEED AND BEGAN TO CLIMB, THE JAPS BURST INTO THE CLEARING AND OPENED FIRE.



THE RETURN FLIGHT TO G.H.Q. WAS BUMPY BUT UNEVENTFUL, AND COLONEL BRETT WAS WAITING FOR THEM AT THE AIRFIELD.

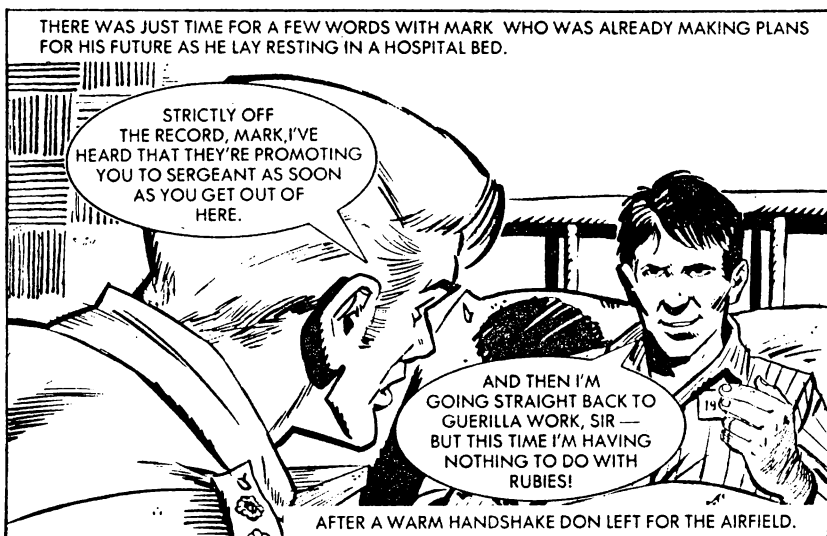


DON WAS KEPT WAITING FOR HALF AN HOUR,
BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO HAND THE CODE BOOK AND
RUBIES TO THE COLONEL.



APPARENTLY MARK HAD GIVEN AN ACCOUNT OF DON'S ACTIONS AGAINST THE JAPS,
WHICH LUCKILY PREVENTED THE CAPTAIN FROM GETTING INTO TROUBLE WITH BRETT.





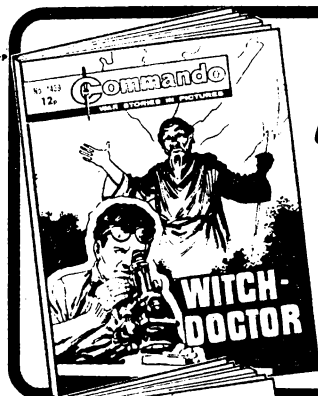
WHEN HE BOARDED THE DAKOTA THAT WOULD TAKE HIM TO VISIT HIS OLD FRIENDS IN THE BRITISH ISLES, DON HAD EVERY REASON TO FEEL PLEASED WITH HIMSELF. FOR HE HAD SOLVED A MYSTERY AND HAD FOUGHT THE JAPS — AND IN HIS POCKET HE HAD A MAP GEORGE HAD GIVEN HIM SHOWING WHERE THE MISSING BULLION WAS HIDDEN IN ITALY.



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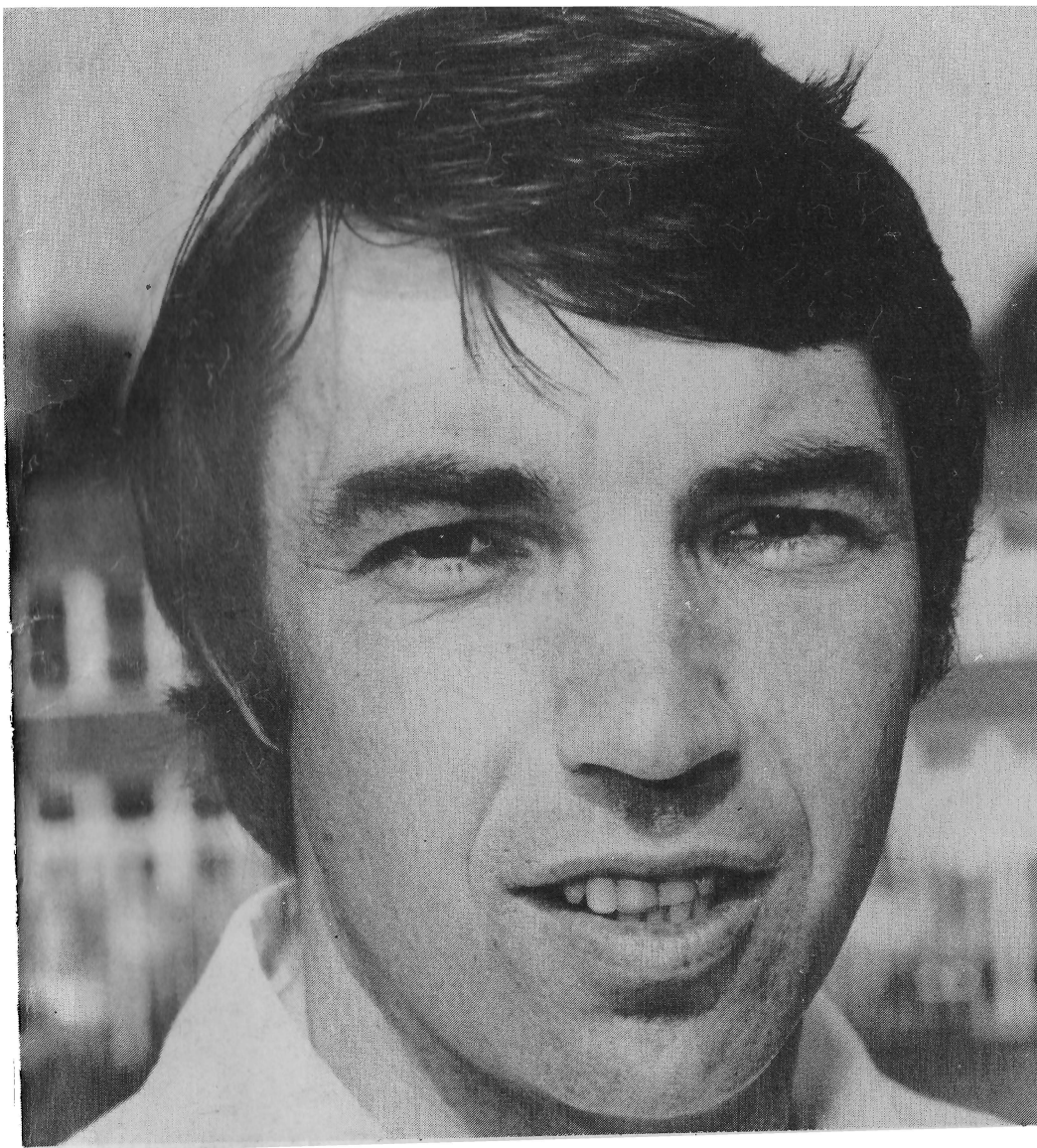
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